Soccer whips Brandeis, ups record to 4-2

By Bob Host

The varsity soccer team improved its record to 4-2 with two wins in the last week, a 4-1 victory over Bates on Saturday and a 3-0 triumph over Brandeis on Tuesday.

Last Saturday, the team was sparked by a quick offense and a brilliant performance in goal by Tom Smith '79 as the Beavers downed Bates. The first goal was scored by Luis Boza '79 on a penalty kick. Bates tied the score shortly afterward but MIT countered when Zanda Ilori '79 put in a free kick to make the halftime score 2-1 in MIT's favor.

Play in the first half was frequently going from one end of the field to the other, with both teams getting very few good breaks. Bates missed an excellent scoring opportunity when Smith blocked a penalty kick for the second time this season late in the half. Coach Walter Alessi later said that this save was the key play of the game, and it seemed to motivate the Beavers toward the end of the half, as they charged into the Bates zone but could not maintain a drive as the half ended.

MIT came out strong in the second half and stayed in the Bates zone by eluding defenders. Boza got his second goal of the game after just fifty-two seconds of the half on a pass from Bill Uhle '81 to put MIT ahead 3-1. The second half was marked by tight defense until Ilori put in an unassisted shot with under three minutes remaining to give MIT a halftime lead of 2-0.

The second half, Brandeis' attempts at outpsyehing their opponents were of little avail as both Boza and Ilori put on impressive ball-control displays that entered the spectators and Beaver players while serving to embarrass the Brandeis team. When Boza put in a shot from the right side, assisted by Allan Strong '80 to make the score 3-1, MIT's focus turned to preserving Smith's shutout. With less than nine minutes to play, this task was eased somewhat when a Brandeis player got a "red card," signifying ejection from the game with no replacement allowed. Thus, playing with a one-man advantage, the Beavers kept Brandeis at bay and Smith had his shutout, making ten saves, but, because of the extraordinary defense he was untested throughout the game, just as was the case against Bates three days earlier.

The victory was even more impressive in light of the fact that Brandeis had given up only two goals in its six games while posting a 3-0 record coming into the contest.

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